

## State of Utah Department of Commerce Division of Securities

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

## PROMOTER OF RESORT INVESTMENTS CONSENTS TO ORDER

Undercover investigators expose fraudulent scheme

December 7, 2005 . . . Francine A. Giani, Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, today announced that Donald Wesley Dennett, formerly of Springdale, Utah, consented to an order that he cease and desist from violating Utah's securities laws and pay a \$1,000 fine.

Dennett sold "universal lease" investments for Yucatan Resorts. He promised a 9% guaranteed return to potential investors. Under the scheme, investors supposedly received a lease agreement for a resort hotel room in Mexico or the Caribbean. The investor could use the room and also have a travel company rent the room to tourists. When the room was rented, the travel company would send profits to the investor. Investigators from the Utah Division of Securities received the sales pitch from Dennett himself.

In the Order, Dennett admitted misrepresenting information about the investment including claiming a 9% return was guaranteed, that investors would receive profits whether or not the rooms were rented, and the investment was liquid (meaning the company would repurchase the investor interest at any time). Dennett also admitted failing to disclose to potential investors that securities agencies in at least six other states had entered orders against Yucatan Resorts, prohibiting this type of promotion.

Dennett has paid a fine of \$1,000 to the Division and agreed to the entry of a cease and desist order against him. This order replaces an earlier default order entered against Dennett.